

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 20305 311025Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 /043 W
-----311029Z 042706 /12

P 310953Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2628
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS MOSCOW 20305

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, SOPN, UR
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR TOON'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND Q AND A

REF: STATE 310877

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF
STATEMENT MADE AT SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT DECEMBER 30 BY AMBASSADOR
TOON:

2. (BEGIN TEXT) IT GIVES ME GREAT SATISFACTION, BOTH PERSONALLY
AND PROFESSIONALLY, TO BE BACK AGAIN IN THE SOVIET UNION.

SINCE 1965 WHEN I LAST SERVED HERE IN MOSCOW, I THINK WE
HAVE MADE GREAT PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHING A STABLE RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WHICH SERVES THE INTERESTS OF BMPH
COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE.

NOW THIS HAS NOT BEEN EASY. WE'VE HAD PROBLEMS IN THE PAST,
AND WE'LL HAVE THEM IN THE FUTURE. BUT I THINK WITH GOOD WILL
AND COOPERATION ON BOTH SIDES WE CAN CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR
BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND I CONSIDER THAT ONE OF MY PRINCIPAL
TASKS HERE AS AMBASSADOR WILL BE TO DO WHAT I CAN TO MOVE THAT
PROCESS FORWARD AND TO ESTABLISH MUCH CLOSER RELATIONS THAN WE
HAVE HAD IN THE PAST. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I'M VERY GLAD TO BE
HERE (END TEXT).

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 20305 311025Z

3. AFTER CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, AMBASSADOR RESPONDED TO QUESTION
AS FOLLOWS:

4. Q. (TASS): WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT MR. BREZHNEV'S LAST
STATEMENT ABOUT THE PERSPECTIVE OF AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS?

A. WELL, I FOUND IT VERY ENCOURAGING, AS PRESIDENT FORD DID AND ALSO MR. CARTER, THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, AND I THINK THAT THIS IS A GOOD SIGN OF GOOD THINGS TO COME.

5. Q. (ABC): THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PRESS SOURCES THAT HAVE SAID YOU ARE A HARD-LINER IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT AND HOW DO YOU THINK THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE?

A. WELL, OF COURSE I'VE READ THOSE STATEMENTS TOO IN THE PRESS, AND I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT THAT IS AN EXPRESSION WHICH WAS COINED BY THE JOURNALISTS AND NOT BY ME. I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS. SO FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, I BELIEVE IN CARRYING ON A DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. I THINK IT'S TERRIBLY IMPORTANT IN THE INTERESTS OF WORLD PEACE. WE HAVE BEEN DOING THAT IN RECENT YEARS, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO IT AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED AS THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR.

6. Q. (AP): SHORTLY AFTER YOU LEFT I BELIEVE THERE WAS SOME RATHER BAD PRESS HERE IN THE SOVIET UNION. THERE WAS AN ACCUSATION ABOUT SPYING --- THAT SORT OF THING. DO YOU THINK THAT WILL HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON YOUR PRESENT MISSION?

A. WELL, I THINK FRANKLY WE OUGHT TO FORGET THE PAST AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE, AND IF MY SOVIET COLLEAGUES ARE PREPARED TO DO THAT, I AM TOO.

7. Q. (NYT): MR. AMBASSADOR, DO YOU HAVE ANY PARTICULAR UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 20305 311025Z

PRIORITIES YOU ARE SETTING?

A. WELL, THE FIRST THING I PLAN TO DO IS GET A HAT (LAUGHTER), AND THEN GET A PAIR OF SHOES. AS YOU KNOW, I COME FROM A RATHER WARM CLIMATE AND I'M HERE IN SOMEWHAT OF A HURRY, AND SO I'M NOT VERY WELL EQUIPPED FOR THAT SORT OF THING. ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE, MY FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS IS TO PUT MYSELF IN THE HANDS OF AMBASSADOR NIKIFOROV AND HE WILL TELL ME WHAT THE DRILL IS. I HOPE TO PRESENT MY CREDENTIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND GET TO WORK.

8. Q. (ABC): MR. AMBASSADOR, JUST ONE MORE QUESTION. DO YOU SEE THE WORD "DETENTE" BEING REDEFINED IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS?

A. I DON'T THINK SO. I THINK THAT REALLY IS A QUESTION THAT YOU SHOULD PUT TO THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND HIS TEAM -- MR. VANCE AND MR. BROWN AND OTHERS. BUT MY READING OF THEIR INTENTIONS ON THE BASIS OF WHAT THEY'VE SAID DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND

RECENTLY AFTER THE ELECTION IS THAT WE WILL CARRY ON VERY
MUCH THE SAME WAY WE HAVE IN THE PAST.

9. HHE FORMAL STATEMENT (STATE 310877) WAS SUPPLIED TO THE PRESS IN
WRITTEN FORM.

TOON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES, SPEECHES, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW20305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D770001-0432
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaaho.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 310877
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <29 DEC 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR TOON'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT AND Q AND A
TAGS: OGEN, PFOR, SOPN, UR, US, (TOON, MALCOLM)
To: STATE
USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006